IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS FORT WORTH DIVISION

EUGENIO VARGAS,

Plaintiff/Counterclaim
Defendant,

V.

ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL
FLIGHT ATTENDANTS, et al.,

Defendants/Counterclaim
Plaintiff.

S

Civil Action No. 4:22-cv-430-Y

S

Judge Terry R. Means

(Relates to Motion Referred to Magistrate Judge Cureton)

APPENDIX IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF EUGENIO VARGAS'S REPLY TO RESPONSE TO MOTION TO QUASH DEFENDANTS' SECOND NOTICE TO TAKE DEPOSITION AND MOTION FOR A PROTECTIVE ORDER

Plaintiff Eugenio Vargas pursuant to Local Rules 7.1(i) and § C of this Court's Case

Management Requirements, submits this appendix of documents, and in support of

PLAINTIFF'S REPLY TO MOTION TO QUASH DEFENDANT'S SECOND NOTICE TO

TAKE DEPOSITION AND MOTION FOR A PROTECTIVE ORDER:"

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	Pgs.
1	Supporting Documents Referenced in Brief	1-29

Respectfully submitted, K.D. PHILLIPS LAW FIRM, PLLC

By: /s/ Kerri Phillips

Kerri Phillips

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Email: kerri@KDphillipslaw.com

6010 W. Spring Creek Parkway Plano, Texas 75024 Fax: (940) 400-0089 For Service of Filings: notice@KDphillipslaw.com

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that the true and correct copy of this document was sent to all counsel of record, hereunder listed via ECF Filing on this the 19th day of December 2023.

/s/ Kerri Phillips Kerri Phillips, Esq.

Jeffrey Bartos Guerrieri, Bartos, & Roma, P.C. 1900 M Street, NW, Suite 700 Washington, DC 20036

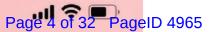
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Done

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Melissa Chinery-Burns

Admin 8m · 🖪

So here is some interesting reading. Bob Ross's lawsuit is not going well for him and now he is fighting against discovery taking place and is afraid of being deposed. For someone who claims the truth will all come out in court he sure seems afraid of getting facts on the record.

Here he wants to push discovery back all the way until next year. He explicitly says he wants to wait until after the APFA national elections. Guess he wants pro corruption candidates to win. Oddly he talks about he, Eugenio Vargas and Nena Martin running. Too bad for him, Ross and Vargas are banned for life for running.

² As previously noted to the Court, APFA continues to pursue Nena Martin and Marcy Dunaway by ordering an additional audit of their expenses within the last two months. These audits are based on a union member's request for the audits in October of 2022. The member who requested these audits is Melissa Chinery-Burns, the wife of AFA General Counsel, Joe Burns, from the competing union. APFA waited for almost a full year before conducting the audit of Nena Martin and Marcy Dunaway. APFA also waited out the discovery period before seeking to confer and ultimately demand depositions of Plaintiff, now noticed for the final week of the discovery period. Most notably, December is when new candidates, like Nena Martin, Robert "Bob" Ross, and Eugenio Vargas, will announce their intent to run for National Office next year. Elections are voted on throughout the month of January therefore, potential harm in stifling the free speech and the democratic election process within the union heavily outweighs the potential benefit of holding depositions within October of 2023. Rather extending the discovery period to accommodate the conflicts with discovery, and properly scheduling depositions after January seems the reasonable approach in the interest of preserving the integrity of the union's electoral process. Depositions should be scheduled in the mouth of February to avoid any possible effect on the democratic procedures within the union.







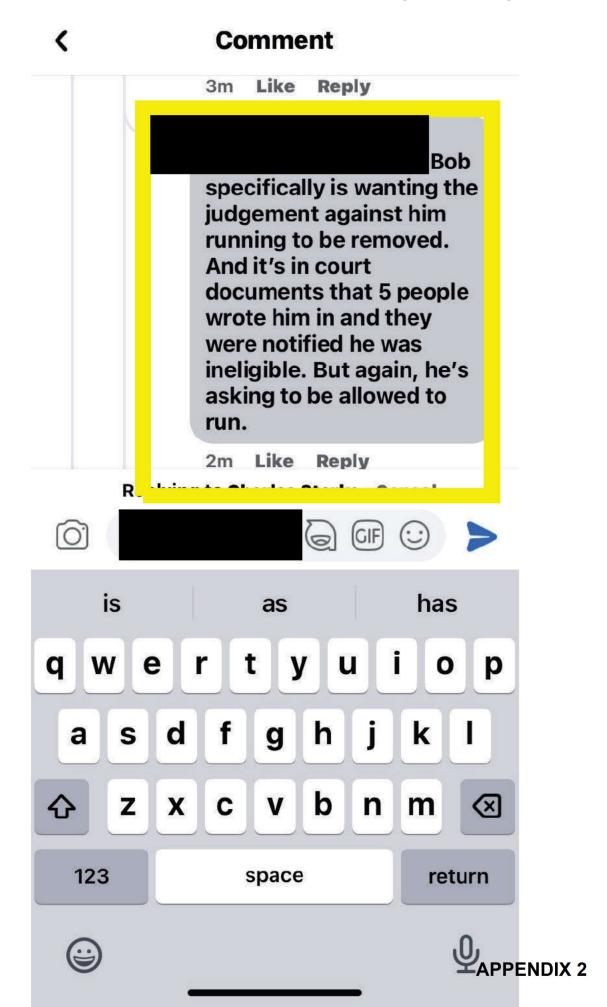
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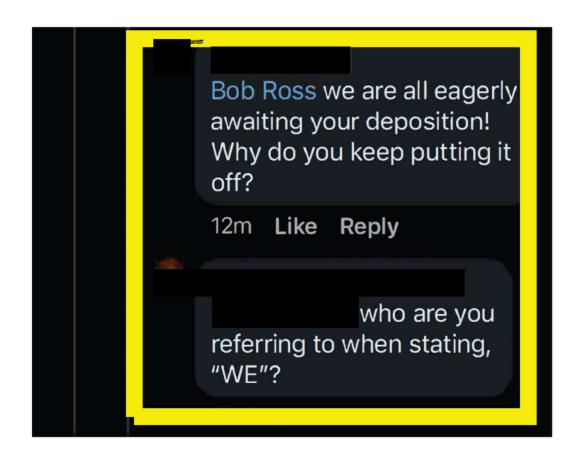


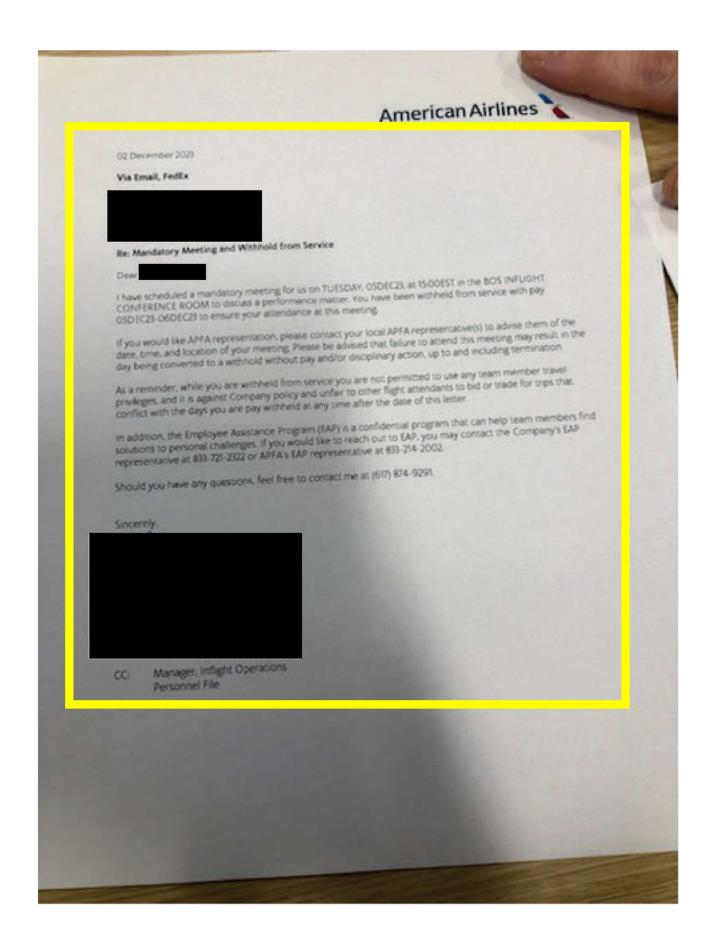


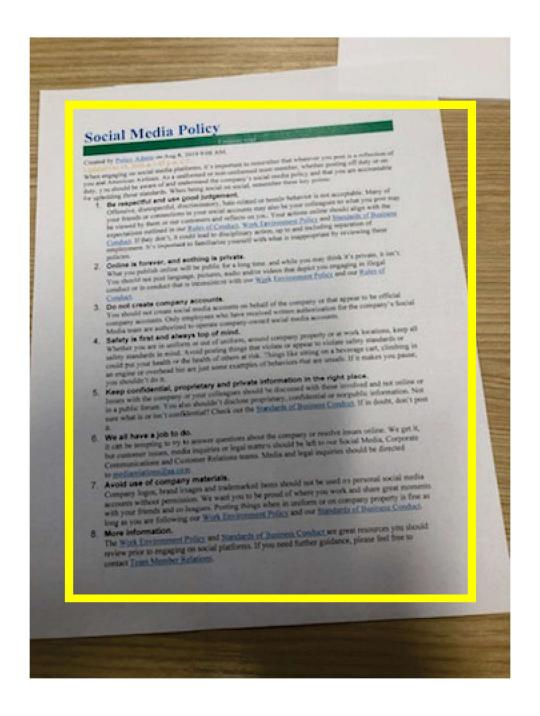


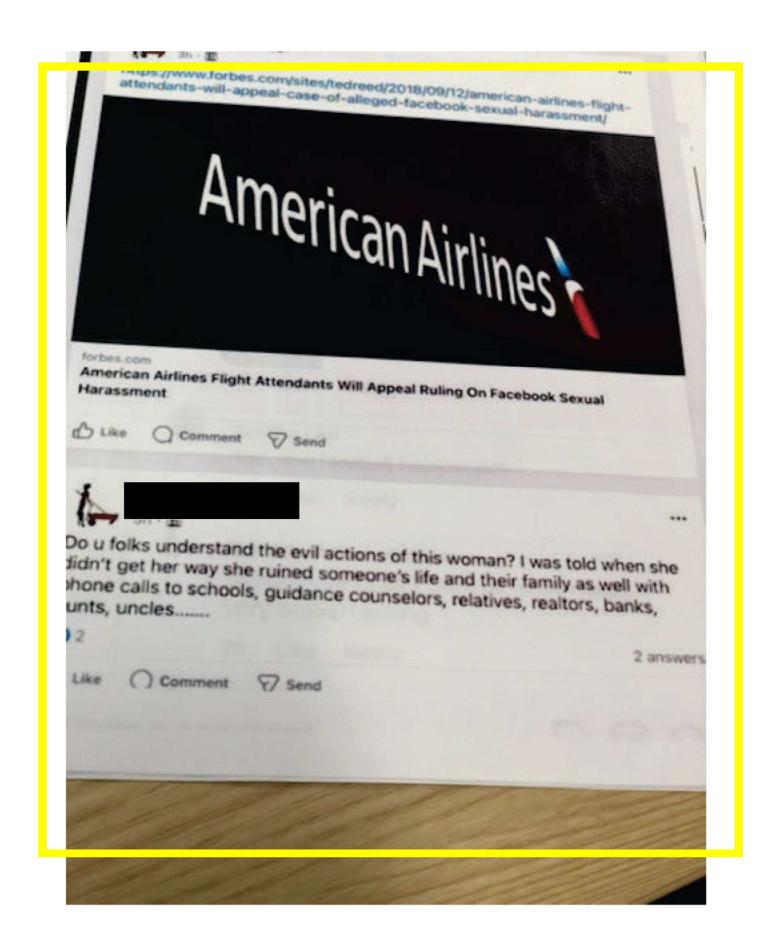


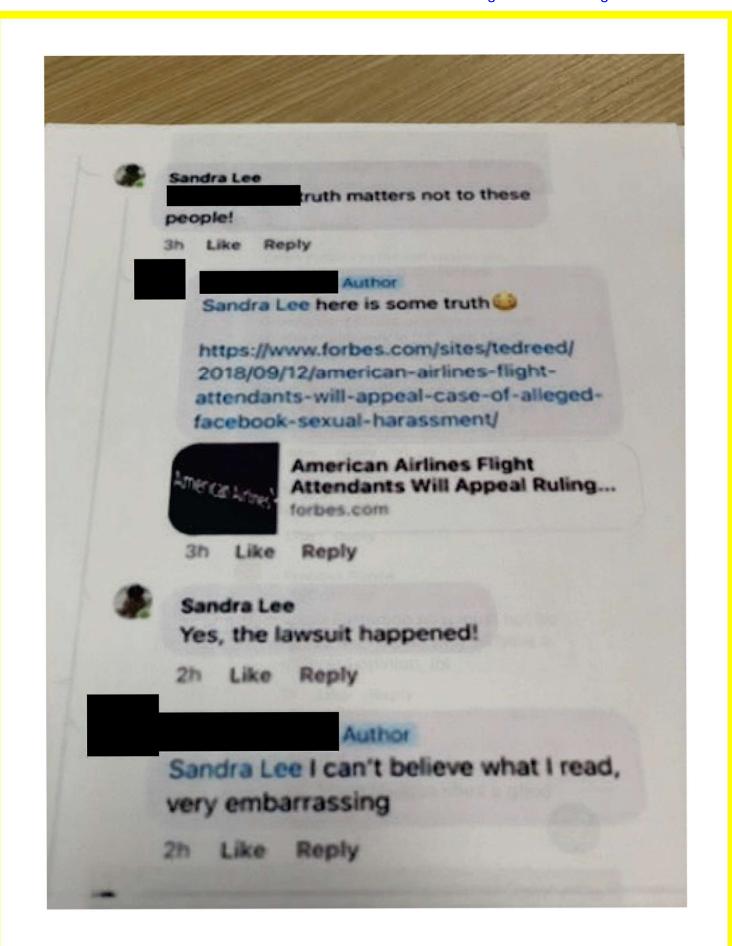


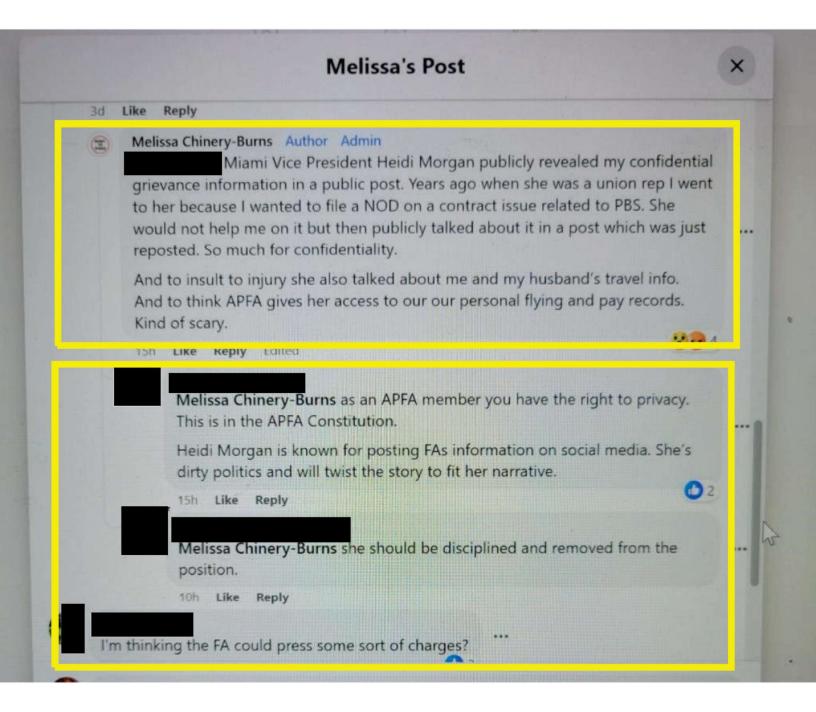


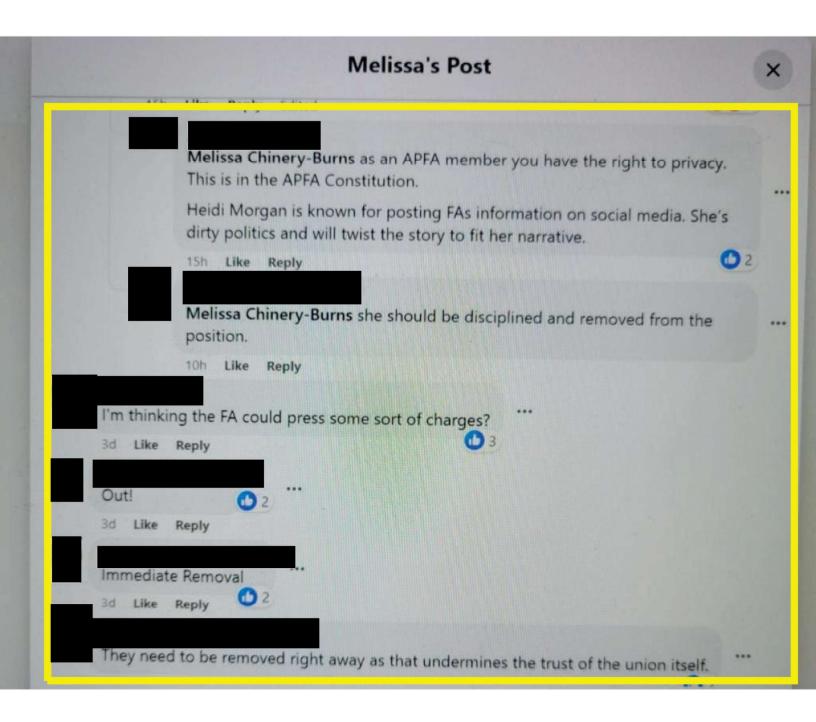


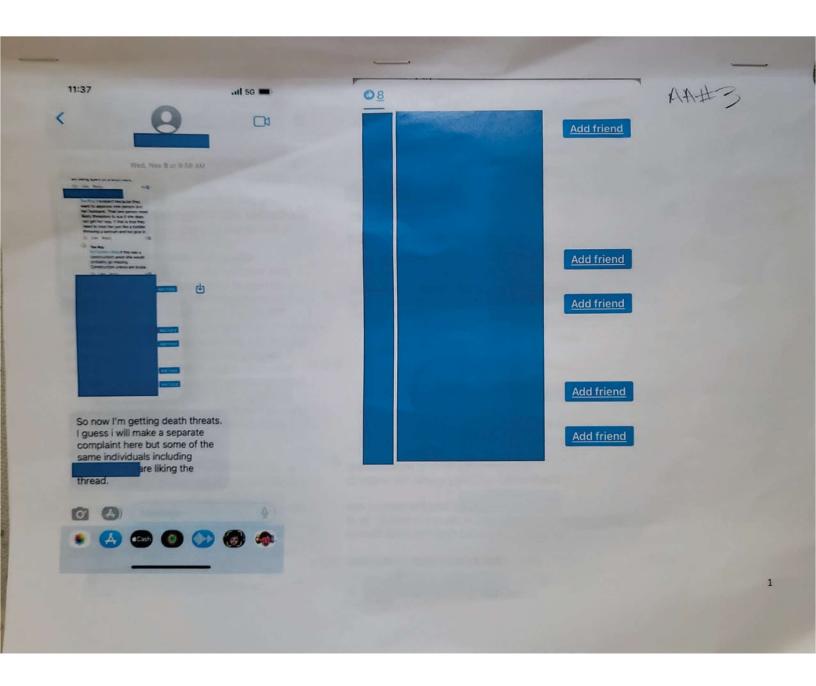


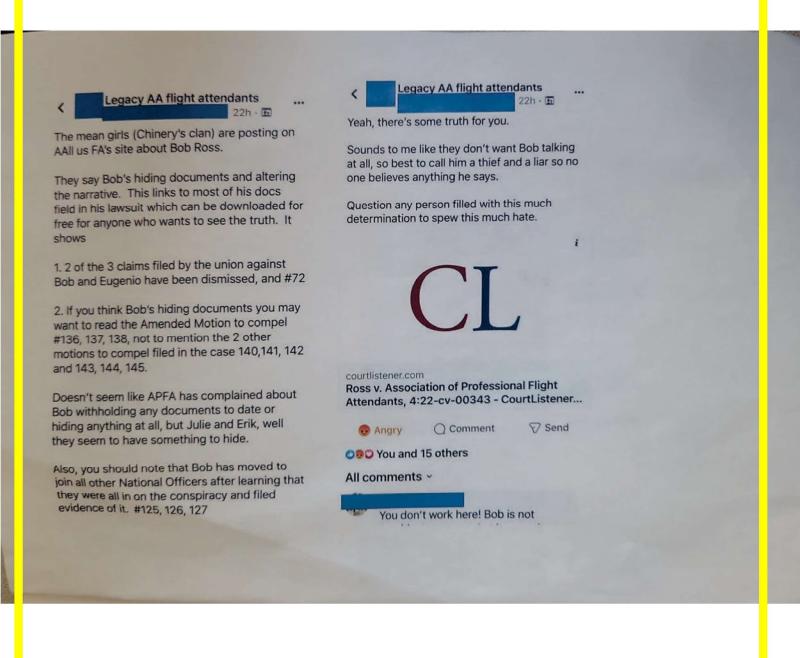


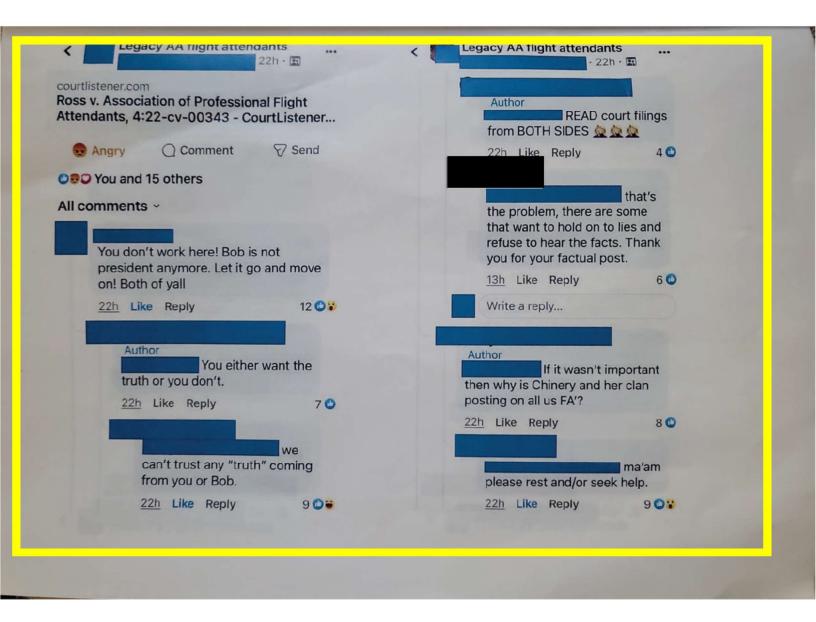


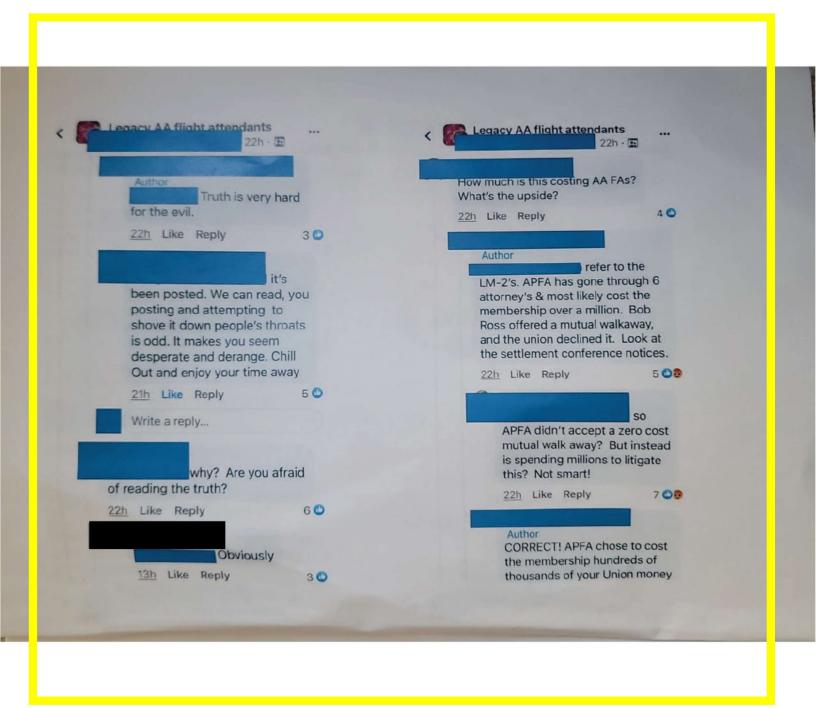


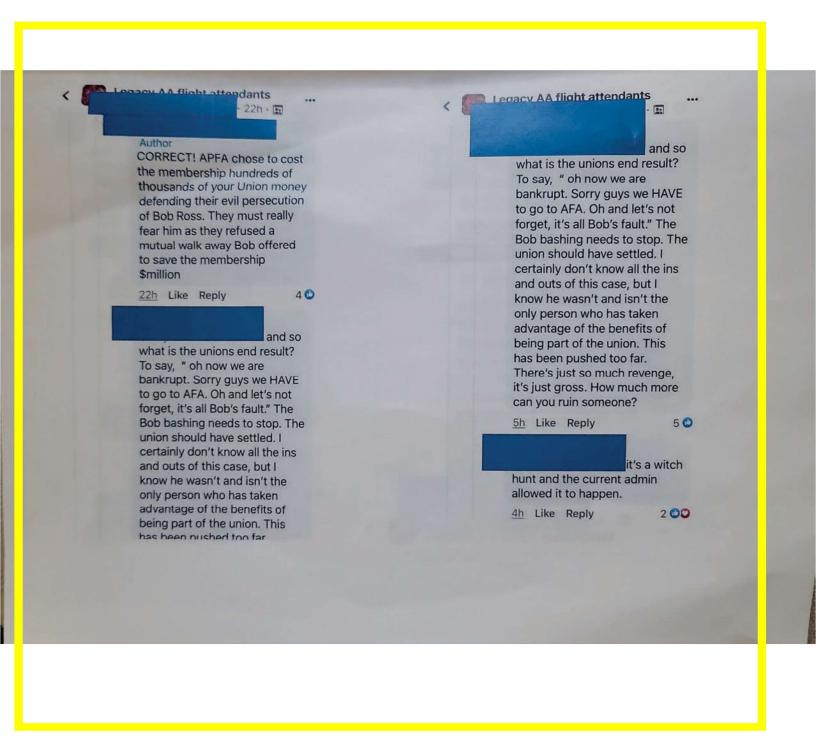


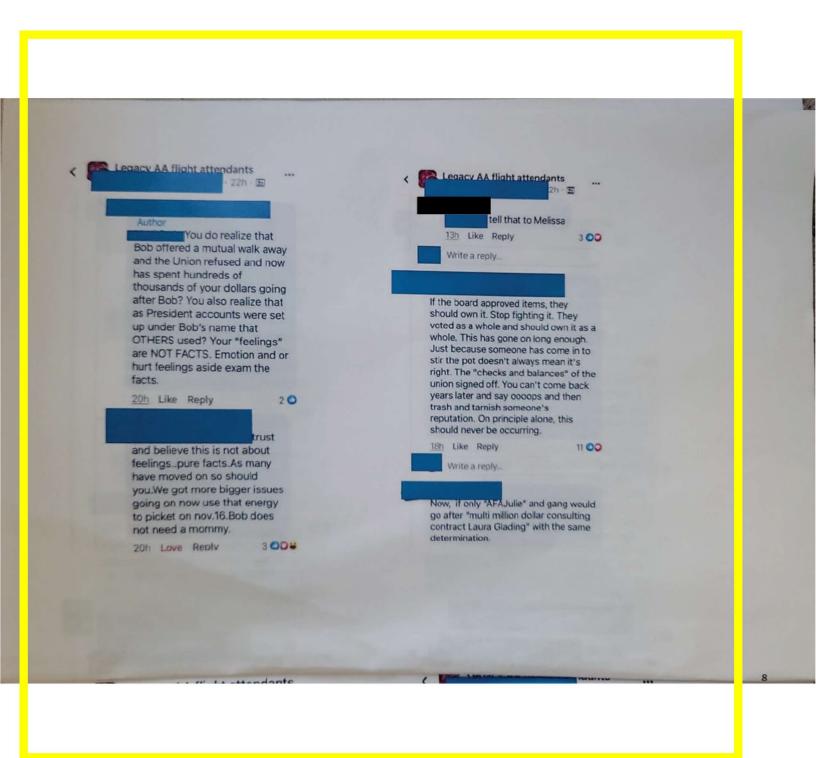


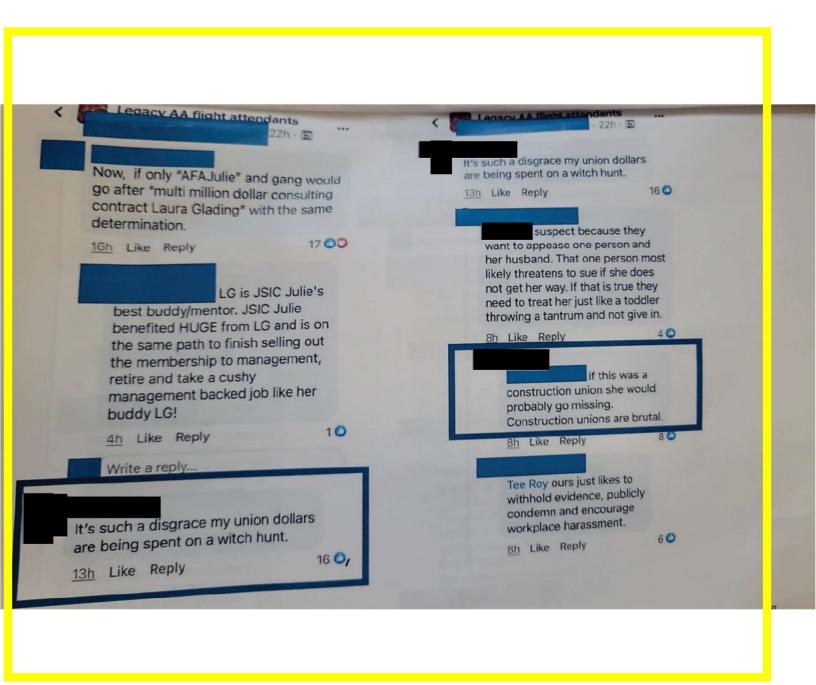


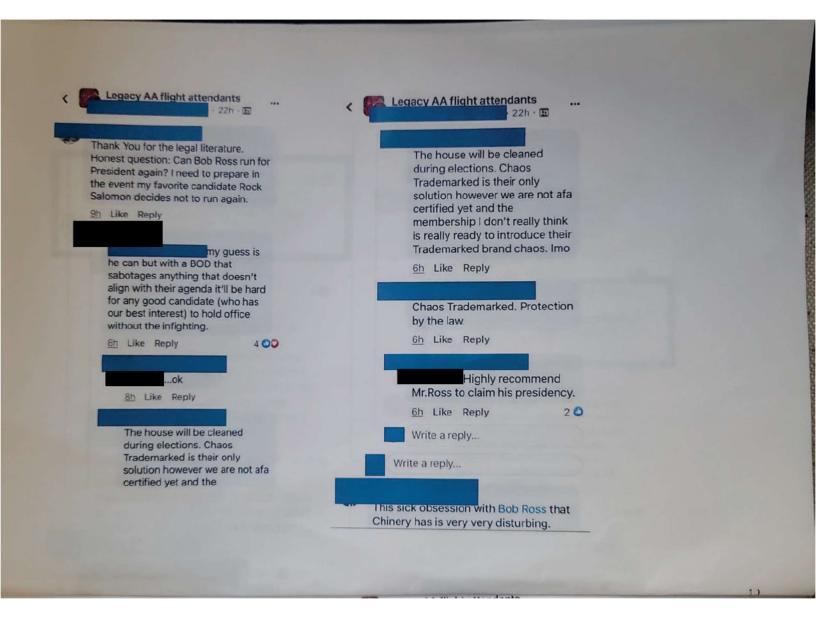


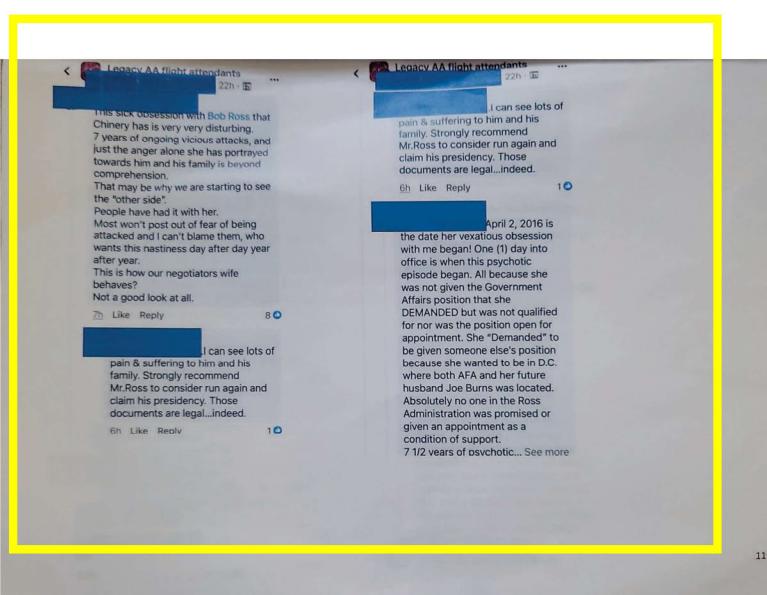


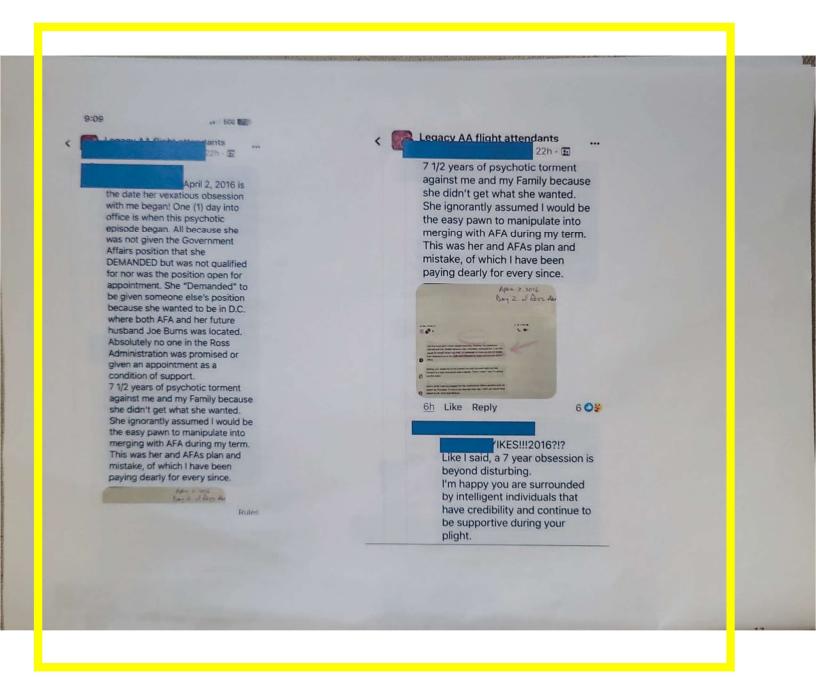


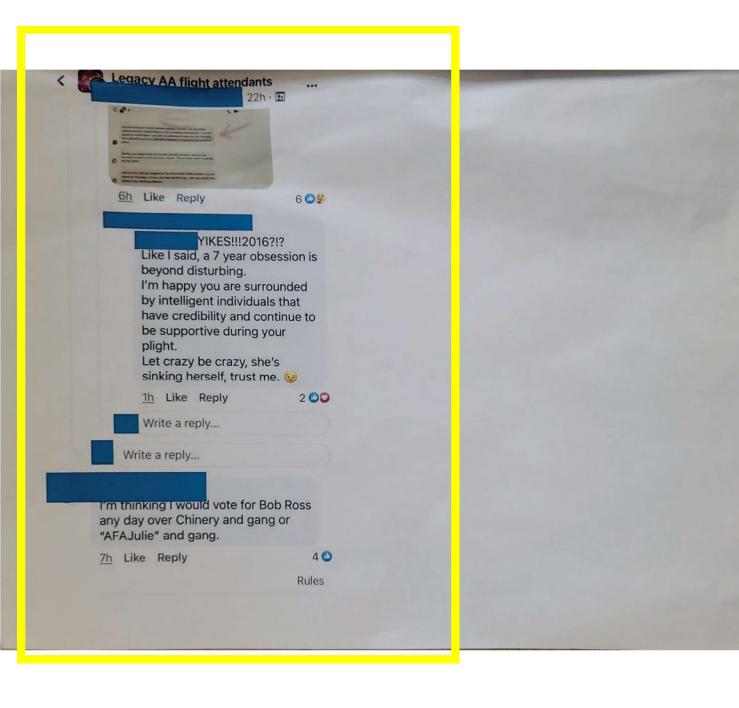












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November 15, 2023

By first class mail and by email

CEASE AND DESIST/NOTICE OF FUTURE LEGAL ACTION

Dear Ms.

This office is legal counsel to Joseph Warren Burns ("Burns") in his capacity as General Counsel to the Association of Flight Attendants. You are now advised not to communicate with Burns for any reason and that all future correspondence regarding this matter be directed to my attention. This demand is being sent to your attention as Burns is fully aware that both of you and other individuals have engaged in an individual and collectively undertaking through Facebook with the malicious and defamatory intent of damaging Burn's outstanding business and community reputation. You, along with several other individuals, have publicly and repeatedly questioned Burn's professional licensure and achievements. In addition, Burns has also received information from reputable third parties indicating, without equivocation, that various individuals have questioned his professional licensure and professional achievement as a direct result of your various postings. I have all the various posts by you and other individuals in my file at the present time.

To set the record straight, once and for all, please be advised that Burns was admitted to the practice of law in the State of Minnesota on November 20, 2001, and the statement of admission is attached as **Exhibit A.** A copy of Burn's current legal license is attached hereto as **Exhibit B.** Thirdly, an up-to-date copy of a Certificate of Good Standing from the Minnesota Supreme Court on behalf of Burns is attached as **Exhibit C**.

Considering these facts, not only are your posts factually incorrect but you clearly failed to undertake prior due diligence before posting your comments. Furthermore, you and several other people utilized social media to question Burns' professional licensure and thus create inferences throughout that Burns was not suited for the general counsel's position which he has held for many years. Your conduct herein is considered libel *per se* as the express wording you employed and the efforts to spread

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misleading and factually inaccurate information about Burns expressly set forth unethical and dishonest conduct on behalf of Burns. The written and presumably verbal dissemination of these misleading and defamatory statements has caused irreparable professional and economic damage to Burns' otherwise impeccable professional and business reputation.

As a result, Burns demands the following immediate action:

- A. For you to immediately remove the previously published Facebook posts involving Burns, and as identified in this demand and that evidence of such removal of all posts be provided to me by or within seven days of receipt of this demand
- B. That you issue a retraction of similar size and placement on each social media page as your original defamatory posts and provide a copy of each retraction to me within seven days of receipt of this demand.
- C. You will remove any defamatory posts from social media pages.
- That you will not participate and/or publish any further social media postings questioning Burns' bar admission or licensure and,
- E. If you comply with the requirements in sections A through D above, Burns will immediately release you from all future liability associated with this matter.

If you fail to fully comply with any the above requirements, Burns is prepared to seek all available civil remedies against you including, *but not limited to*, libel and slander, invasion of privacy, and/or interference with advantageous business relationships and, in addition, seek compensation for punitive damages and reasonable attorney's fees.

Burns reserves all his legal and equitable rights and interests in this matter.

Your *immediate* attention to this matter is advised.

Very truly yours,

David S. Katz, Esq.

DSK/dls

cc: J. Burns, Esq. J. Morse, Esq.

MINNESOTA JUDICIAL BRANCII

Lawyer Details

Lawyer ID	0315540								
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Middle Name	WARREN								
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Date Admitted	11/20/01								
Last Payment	12/22/22								
Next Payment Due	01/01/24								
Authorized to Practice Law?	Authorized								
Additional information related to limited lic	ense statuses may be obtained through the Lawyer Registration Website.								
Current Disciplinary Status	NONE								
Additional information on disciplinary histo									
Lawyer's Professional Responsibility Bo									

Fee Status

ACTIVE

Professional Liability Insurance Lawyer does NOT represent private clients

Good Standing:

CLE Status

<- Back to Lawyer List...

Minnesota Supreme Court

ATTORNEY LIGENSE

ATTORNEY ID: 0315540

LICENSE TYPE: AUTHORIZED

CLE

JOSEPH WARREN BURNS 578 WASHINGTON BLVD #250 LOS ANGELES CA 90292



Expiration/Dat (0) 1/(0) 1/(2/0)2/4

www.ire.mn.gov

STATE OF MINNESOTA IN SUPREME COURT

Certificate of Good Standing

This is to certify that the following lawyer is in good standing

JOSEPH WARREN BURNS

was duly admitted to practice as a lawyer and counselor at law in all the courts of this state on

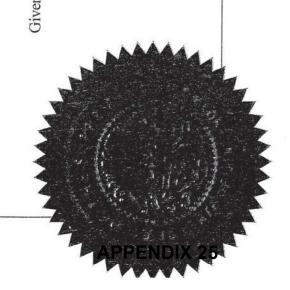
November 20, 2001

Given under my hand and seal of this court on

October 03, 2023

Grief J. Eschwide

Emily J. Eschweiler, Director Office of Lawyer Registration

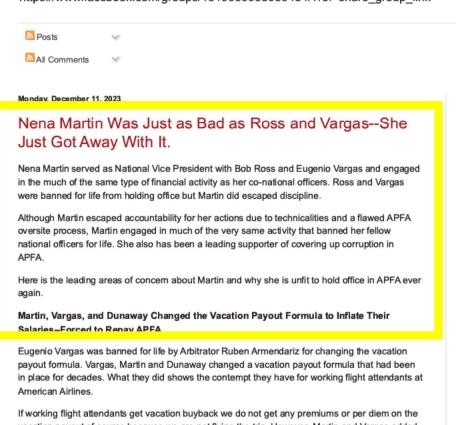


12/16/23, 8:59 PM Transparency in APFA

Case 4:22-cv-00430-Y Document 177 Filed 12/19/23 Page 29 of 32 PageID 4990 Sign In

Transparency in APFA

The purpose of this page is to discuss financial reform within APFA. To continue discussion of these issues all American Airlines flight attendants who support financial reform are welcome to join our group Checks and Balances. https://www.facebook.com/groups/1319660038080484/?ref=share_group_link

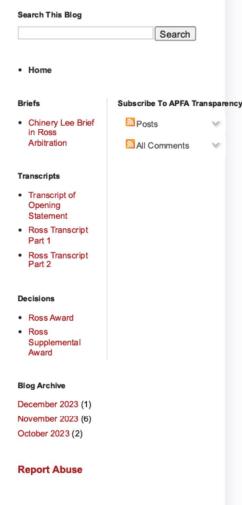


vacation payout of course because we are not flying the trip. However, Martin and Vargas added back in Meal Expense Allowance (MEA) and other expense items on their vacation payouts, inflating their salaries by thousands of dollars. As this was not for actual work performed, they should not have been receiving meal expense payments on their vacation payout.

This change in policy was done over the objections of the APFA staff accounting department according to their testimony at the Vargas hearing, against language in the policy manual, and violating decades of practice. As longtime APFA Executive Board member Patrick Hancock explained in a blistering letter, Martin and Vargas had changed their pay using a new formula which added in "things like profit sharing, MEA/SAF, Grand Slam rewards, and who knows what all. This New Formula was not approved by the BOD or EC...." (V Ex 99)

In fact, the formula was kept secret from the APFA Board of Directors. They cut the amount of vacation payout into four separate payments and signed the authorizations for each other three days before they left office. In previous administrations we are told that incoming officers would sign the payment authorizations to avoid such improprieties. Here they signed their own payouts right before they left office. Vargas testified that he had not informed the BOD that he had changed the formula.

The Arbitrator took a dim view of this and this appears to be a large part of why Vargas was banned for life from holding office as the arbitrator determined: "It is this arbitrators Opinion, Vargas attempted to benefit monetarily and thus failed in his fiduciary duty as National Treasurer by willfully changing the formula for the payouts for Bob Ross, Nena Martin and Marcy Dunaway as well as himself."



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because of timeliness issues. Rather than simply admit she was wrong it took much Board involvement and threats of legal action to get her to simply pay back the money. The ethical thing would gave been to admit she was wrong and readily pay back our dues.

Martin's Meal Expenses Were as Bad or Worse than Vargas and Ross's

We examined Martin's expenses in detail and even prepared a demonstrative exhibit for the arbitration hearing. The arbitrator did not allow evidence at the hearing and Martin escaped justice. But to be clear, Martin had the same level of meal expenses as Ross and Vargas and even perhaps a bit worse.

This includes the frequent lunches at the golf club with the officers, getting both per diem and actual meals while on trips, covering up what was purchased at the lunches or dinners and frequently ordering in meals. We estimate the amount of meal expenses that were in violation of policy and/or IRS regulations to be over \$15,000. On top of that, she benefited from Ross and Vargas's charged meals as they took turns paying with the APFA credit card for each other. She has not repaid any of the money.

At the Vargas arbitration hearing, Martin represented Vargas and took the position that no financial controls were necessary. We called her defense the "everyone is stealing so that makes it ok" defense. But a review of the record showed the Martin, Ross, Vargas's meal expenses were far worse than the Glading administration. And just because others were violating policy does not make it right.

According to their theory, APFA officers should be able to buy themselves lunches or dinners as long as they claim they are discussing APFA business. That is not the standard in the business world, is not a valid IRS expense, and is expressly not provided for in the policy manual. But to this day, she has never admitted it was wrong. Presumably back in office, she would continue her old ways, at our expense. Martin even defends APFA reps double dipping by claiming per diem and actual expenses.

Martin claims she was exonerated because the arbitrator refused to take evidence on the merits of her case. But the arbitrator said at the hearing that APFA was obligated to investigate these credit card charges so he would not proceed with a hearing. He basically washed his hands of the matter which demonstrates the lack of oversite at APFA.

According to the Ross lawsuit, APFA has done an audit of Martin and Dunaway and we believe the results show Martin owes APFA thousands of dollars, probably \$15,000. We call on APFA to release the audit and also call on Martin, since she is running for national office, to abide by the results of the audit.

What is remarkable, is that these individuals believe that national officers can be given a credit card and not have to adhere to any IRS regulations or APFA policy. That they can simply anytime say "oh I am going out to lunch with my coworker" so I will put it on the employer's credit card. Try that in the real world.

Martin Covered Up the Theft of Furniture.

Nena Martin defended Eugenio Vargas and his conduct at the arbitration hearing and her conduct was nothing short of appalling. At the hearing we demonstrated that Vargas stole the furniture from prior officers originally valued at thousands of dollars.

Now, you would think that Martin would be alarmed about this but she actually defended this conduct. However, along with Miami Base Vice President Heidi Morgan she is a leading supporter of corruption within APFA. Now certainly everyone, including Vargas, is entitled to a defense. But the fact that Martin chose to spend her time and effort defending him is a conflict of interest. As a past officer and a candidate for office her first loyalty should be to the membership and our dues money.

Even worse, Martin was in office with Ross and Vargas and was at meetings where the BOD discussed the stolen furniture. She had an obligation to protect APFA property. Much of the furniture was in the APFA office when Vargas secretly moved it to his personal residence. Martin failed to speak up.

When she was on the Board of Directors she used her position to argue members should not be allowed to see financial information. Then rather than joining our effort to recoup APFA funds, Martin spends her time defending corruption.

We Need to Move Forward, Not Backwards

This blog is non-political in regards to the APFA elections. For that reason, we will not speak about her lack of accomplishments in her term as National Vice President. But we will relentlessly speak out on corruption issues and any candidates must pass a litmus test on anti-corruption efforts.

Martin fails that test overwhelmingly as her record is one of lack of transparency, failure to adhere to policy, violations of the APFA policy manual, and defense of corrupt practices at APFA.

FALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING



October 10-12, 2023

APFA Unity Pays Conference Room

	Resolution #:	3				po		ra			_						
	Resolution Name:	Confidentiality			Powers	Hazlewoo	Pennel	Roxt	Nikides	Santana	Trautman	Howard	Montanari	gee			
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Resolution Information	Maker:	Montanari			BOS	CLT	DC/	DFW	LAX	LGA	MIA	ORD	PHI	PH	Hed		
	Second:	Pennel		YES	\boxtimes		\boxtimes	\boxtimes	\boxtimes	\boxtimes		\boxtimes	\boxtimes	\boxtimes			
	Date:	10/12/2023		No		\boxtimes					\boxtimes						
	Time:	9:54 a.m. CT		ABS													
	Affects PM:	Section 1.E		N/A													
Comments: Yes: 8 No: 2 Abstain: 0									Abs	ent: (Sho	w of	Hand	s:			

WHEREAS, APFA Policy Manual Section 1.E.1 states "The National Officers, voting Board of Directors, Ad-Hoc Members of the Executive Committee, members of any APFA Negotiating committee, Base Vice Presidents, National Chairs, and Regional Representatives are required to maintain confidentiality in connection with conducting the business of the Union. Every person holding one (1) or more of these positions shall sign a Code of Confidentiality;" and

WHEREAS, APFA representatives are bound by APFA Policy Manual Section 1.E to safeguard confidential communications and information disseminated to them in their official capacity; and

WHEREAS, all members of the APFA have a right to individual privacy under Article II, Section 3.C of the APFA Constitution; and

WHEREAS, all officers, agents and other representatives of the APFA occupy a position of trust in relation to APFA and its members as a group. Therefore representatives have a duty to refrain from dealing with APFA as an adverse party or on behalf of any adverse party in any matter connected with their duties and from holding or acquiring any pecuniary or personal interest which conflicts with the interests of such organization pursuant to Section 501(a) of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act; and

WHEREAS, breaches of confidentiality may undermine the APFA negotiations strategy, may harm APFA's position in litigation, and erode the trust of its members.

Res. #3 October 10-12, 2023 Page 1 of 2 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, any National Officers, voting Board of Directors, Ad-Hoc Members of the Executive Committee, members of any APFA Negotiating committee, Base Vice Presidents, National Chairs, Regional Representatives or other representative of APFA who violates the APFA Policy Manual Section 1.E or APFA Code of Confidentiality will be sent a letter admonishing the breach of confidentiality and be barred from receiving any confidential and privileged information for an amount of time necessary, in the judgment of the Board of Directors, to protect the interests of the APFA and its members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that APFA Policy Manual Section 1.E.1 include the following edits:

"The National Officers, voting Board of Directors, Ad-Hoc Members of the Executive Committee, members of any APFA Negotiating committee, Base Vice Presidents, National Chairs, and Regional Representatives, and other APFA Representatives are required to maintain confidentiality in connection with conducting the business of the Union. Every person holding one (1) or more of these positions shall sign a Code of Confidentiality." and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, APFA Policy Manual Section 1.E be updated to include the following paragraph:

4. Failure to execute or comply with the APFA Code of Confidentiality will result in exclusion from receiving confidential and proprietary information. The Board of Directors shall determine the duration of exclusion from receiving confidential and proprietary information. A letter will be sent to the offender by the APFA Board of Directors describing the breach of confidentiality and the consequence.